

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 RANGOO 00144 140651Z  
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00  
ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 ACDA-07 /033 W  
-----140653Z 038370 /14  
R 140557Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2857

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 0144

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ESTC, ETRD, BM  
SUBJ: GUB PLANS TO PURCHASE HELICOPTERS; REQUEST FOR EXPORT LICENSE

REF: 76 RANGOON 3879

1. GUB MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS TOLD SIKORSKY AIRCRAFT REPRESENTATIVE THAT THE GUB IS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN PURCHASING THREE SIKORSKY S-61 HELICOPTERS. ALTHOUGH PURCHASE BEING MADE UNDER MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, GUB OFFICIALS CLAIMED THE HELICOPTERS WOULD BE USED PRIMARILY TO SERVICE OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION AND FOR LOGGING OPERATIONS.

2. TOTAL VALUE OF SALE ESTIMATED AT ABOUT \$12 MILLION. SIKORSKY HAS OFFERED BARTER ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY U.K. FIRM WOULD ACCEPT TEAK AND MAKE CASH PAYMENT TO SIKORSKY. GUB INTERESTED IN THIS ARRANGEMENT, BUT DETAILS HAVE NOT YET BEEN WORKED OUT. SIKORSKY REPRESENTATIVE IS PRESENTLY IN RANGOON TO NEGOTIATE TERMS.

3. HOWEVER, GUB MINDEF OFFICIALS TOLD SIKORSKY REPRESENTATIVE THAT FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE POINTLESS UNLESS THERE IS POSITIVE INDICATION THAT USG WOULD GRANT AN EXPORT LICENSE. GUB OFFICIALS MADE REFERENCE TO THEIR "SAD EXPERIENCE" WITH AN ATTEMPT TO PURCHASE ARMORED CARS FROM U.S. AND SAID THAT THEY DID NOT WISH TO  
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SPEND TIME AND MONEY IN NEGOTIATING A TRANSACTION THAT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE DENIED. SIKORSKY REPRESENTATIVE HAS CABLED THIS INFORMATION TO HIS HOME OFFICE AND THE FIRM MAY APPROACH THE DEPARTMENT IN NEAR FUTURE REGARDING EXPORT LICENSE.

4. THE EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO OBJECTION TO THIS SALE.

WHILE THE HELICOPTERS COULD BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES (PRIMARY LOGISTIC SUPPORT) AS WELL AS THE CIVILIAN USE OUTLINED BY THE GUB, THEY WOULD NOT BE PRACTICAL FOR USE TO SUPPRESS PUBLIC DISSENT AGAINST THE PRESENT REGIME. THE AIRCRAFT COULD WELL BE USED TO SUPPORT ANTI-SMUGGLING OPERATIONS AND IN THIS CONNECTION ANY ASSISTANCE THEY MIGHT PROVIDE IN SUPPRESSING NARCOTICS SMUGGLING WOULD BE IN DIRECT SUPPORT OF U.S. OBJECTIVES IN BURMA. FURTHER, THE HELICOPTERS IN QUESTION WOULD PROVIDE AN INCREASED SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITY THAT BURMA PRESENTLY LACKS. HENCE, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO A POSSIBLE APPROACH FOR AN EXPORT LICENSE IN THIS CASE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, MILITARY SALES, HELICOPTERS, EXPORT LICENSES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 14-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977RANGOO00144  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 76 RANGOON 3879  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUB PLANS TO PURCHASE HELICOPTERS; REQUEST FOR EXPORT LICENSE  
**TAGS:** ESTC, ETRD, MASS, BM, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009